

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2b
October 6, 2011

Work Session

RIDE

Thursday, September 15, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Carolina Bernal, Robert Carothers, Patrick Guida, Betsy Shimberg

Absent: Lorne Adrain, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes, Mat Santos

The meeting convened at 11:35 a.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone. He noted that Regents Adrain, Callahan, Forbes, and Santos would not be joining the meeting, and he acknowledged that the meeting was a session of the Board of Regents duly noticed and he asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, R. Carothers, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Remarks

Race to the Top (RTTT):

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the Collaborative Learning for Outcomes (CLOs). She discussed the way in which RIDE has structured the districts, conducting a gap-analysis with them to analyze their readiness to be able implement all of the RTTT plans and programs, including evaluation and the transition to the Common Core.

RIDE completed 22 gap-analysis sessions thus far and will complete sessions over the next two weeks. The first CLO small-group meetings will start in October.

School for the Deaf:

There have been some transitions at the School for the Deaf. The director moved on, so currently the administrative responsibilities are being handled by Mary Prendergast (Special Education Director); the Board of Trustees voted to give her decision-making authority while they continue their search.

The search is ongoing, and the Trustees are recruiting locally and nationally.

RIDE has been in regular communication with the school and administrative team, and RIDE staff attends every Board of Trustees meetings.

It is always challenging when there is a transition, especially in the period before a new person comes on board, but RIDE is watching the school very closely and providing support as needed.

Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools (PLAs):

In the past couple of months, RIDE has continued to work closely with both the U.S. Department of Education and with our current school districts that have PLA schools and the PLA schools themselves.

We have identified again working with the first cohort (Central Falls High School and 4 schools in Providence).

These schools are working on submitting their year-one reports to RIDE and their year-two grant applications.

In terms of the next cohort, RIDE has requested a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education and we don't yet have approval of that waiver; we will use that waiver to help us get back on track and allow us to use the most recent NECAP data in order for RIDE to identify the second cohort of schools.

RIDE expects about \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Education's School Improvement Grant to assist us in working with the PLA school districts.

Discussion Items:

RIDE Budget

Commissioner Gist gave an overview on how RIDE has officially started the FY 2012 revised budget and FY 2013 budget-preparation cycle and how she and RIDE staff will be providing updates to the Regents over their next three meetings.

Unlike in past years, the State Budget Office requested that RIDE do only a current-services budget request without any reductions.

Carolyn Dias, Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, and Alda Rego, the new Director of RIDE's Office of Finance, walked the BOR through the timeline and targets for the FY 2013 budget and answered questions from the BOR.

There were questions around the teachers' retirement contributions, including health-care costs. Chairman Caruolo requested that RIDE provide the BOR with data on how much health care will cost local school districts in FY 2013.

School Construction

Commissioner Gist briefed the BOR on RIDE's draft recommendations on school-construction projects for the Bristol Warren Regional School District and the Paul Cuffee Public Charter School.

The BOR reviews and certifies Necessity of School Construction projects for district-owned schools reimbursed through Housing Aid.

All projects have undergone a rigorous review process under the multistage necessity of school construction process and are in compliance with the school-construction regulations to ensure that the process is really tight.

The Commissioner reminded the Board that these projects were first presented to the BOR at the May 19, 2011, Work Session but were postponed by request of House and Senate Finance Committees of the General Assembly. Subsequent legislation was enacted that placed a moratorium on new school-construction approvals until June 2014, with the exception of projects that are necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons.

RIDE staff, Carolyn Dias and Joe da Silva, answered questions around how districts have to have five-year asset protection plans and how the costs in those plans are reimbursed through Housing Aid funds. They also shared how RIDE worked with the General Assembly around what constitutes immediate health and safety issues.

Certification

Commissioner Gist gave the BOR an overview of the timeline on the Certification Redesign and thanked the BOR for its strong presence at the three public hearings that the Regents are co-hosting with the Certification Policy Advisory Board (CPAB) to gather testimony. At the conclusion of the public hearings, RIDE will summarize the notes and share them with the BOR.

The October 20th Work Session will be devoted to discussing Certification Redesign, and, if more time is needed, we are holding a couple of dates for a special Work Session on this topic.

RIDE's goal is to have the BOR ready to vote on the regulations at the November 3rd BOR meeting so that the regulations can go into effect in January 2012.

Mary Ann Snider, Chief of the Office of Educator Excellence and Instructional Effectiveness, walked the BOR through the overall structure of certification and the routes through the process, understanding how professional development remains prominently featured in the overall design of our system and understanding the process for progressing through the certification tiers, renewing certificates, or getting reinstated.

The BOR raised questions around:

- What the expectations are for people teaching under the preliminary certification, and whether or not they, too, will have to go through the same evaluation process as their counterparts;
- Who the primary evaluator in a school is, and can the primary evaluator [principal] delegate that duty to another staff member?;
- How will the principal of a school be able to handle evaluating every teacher in his/her building in addition to his/her current duties?;
- Teacher leader positions within a building;
- What will happen to those teachers whom RIDE has trained to become educator evaluators once they return to their districts?;
- How will the evaluation system continue to sustain itself once the RTTT funding is gone?;
- How have Coventry, Lincoln, Chariho, and Barrington school districts handled their evaluation systems?; and
- Will principals, superintendents, and school committees also be evaluated?

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Commissioner Gist gave an overview of the CTE regulations and reminded everyone that the current regulations are 21 years old and badly out-of-date.

The new regulations are based on three principles (preparing tomorrow's workforce not to think OR do, but to think AND do; one piece of paper is no longer enough; and support the effective, wherever and however it is offered), which reflect an ambitious redesign of the CTE system in R.I.

Andrea Castañeda, Chief of the Office of Accelerating School Performance, gave an overview of the three CTE principles, which have embedded in them ten major elements.

She next walked the BOR through a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the CTE regulations and its three major issues (student access, student access & funding, and CTE regions).

The BOR raised questions around:

- Limitation of student access to programs;
- Issues of funding;
- Students being denied access to programs due to unavailability of seats within a particular program; and
- Virtual learning having to be a RIDE-approved program.

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, R. Carothers, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.